



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/314,966	05/20/1999	SYED S. ALI	ALI17-3	5858

7590 06/05/2002

FARKAS & MANELLI PLLC  
2000 M STREET NW  
7TH FLOOR  
WASHINGTON, DC 200363307

EXAMINER

SING, SIMON P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2645

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/314,966

Applicant(s)

ALI ET AL.

Examiner

Simon Sing

Art Unit

2645

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 April 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claim 1, 2, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ali et al. US Patent 6,335,962.

3.1 Regarding claim 1, Ali discloses a voice messaging system in figure 1. Ali's system comprises:

a telephone line interface 48;

a controller 18;

voice message memory (column 4, lines 4-7) adapted to store play a plurality of voice messages by a voice record/playback module 20;

a regrouping module 17 and a user input grouping directory 16b [message authorization module] adapted to authorize a calling party to separately secure a voice message in an individual mailbox (column 7, lines 15-20).

3.2 Regarding claim 2, Ali discloses a playback/record module 20 to record a voice message.

3.3 Regarding claim 7, Ali teaches that the regrouping module 17 and regrouping directory 16b, is adapted to allow said calling party to secure a voice message upon matching of called related information relating to said calling party to at least one pre-stored entry of called related information regarding an ability to secure a voice message (column 5, lines 44-47).

3.4 Regarding claim 9, Ali discloses a call information detector/receiver module 12 to detect and receive call related information (column 3, lines 49-54).

4. Claims 1-7 and 9-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nabkel US Patent 5,963,626.

4.1 Regarding claim 1, Nabkel discloses a method and system for posting messages to callers based on caller identity. Nabkel's system comprising:

a telephone line interface for accepting telephone calls from subscribers and callers (column 2, lines 28-30; column 4, lines 23-26; column 5, lines 61-65);

a controller for comparing user IDs and PINs (column 2, lines 30-36; column 4, lines 27-33);

a secured message authorization module adapted to allow a subscriber [calling party] to separately secure a voice message for access by an authorized calling party [user] (column 2, lines 58-65; column 3, lines 53-58, column 4, lines 41-45).

4.2 Regarding claim 2, Nabkel' system further comprising:

a playback/recording module adapted to record said voice message (column 3, lines 16-26).

4.3 Regarding claim 3, Nabkel' system according claim 1, further comprising:

an authorized security code table including information relating to an ability of said subscriber [calling party] to separately secure said voice message (column 2, lines 28-36, 41-49, 58-65' column 3, lines 53-58).

4.4 Regarding claim 4, Nabkel' system according to claim 3, wherein:

said authorized security code table further includes at least one security code (PIN) allowing at least one calling party [user] access to said separately secured voice message (column 2, lines 58-65; column 3, lines 53-58; column 4, lines 41-45).

4.5 Regarding claim 5, Nabkel' system according to claim 3, wherein:

said authorized security code table is adapted to includes call related information (PIN) relating to at least one subscriber [calling party] authorized to secure a voice message (column 2, lines 28-36, 58-65; column 3, lines 53-58).

4.6 Regarding claim 6, Nabkel' system according claim 1, wherein:

said secured message authorization module is adapted to allow said subscriber [calling party] to secure a voice message upon entry of an authorized security code by said calling party (column 2, lines 58-65; column 3, lines 53-58).

4.7 Regarding claim 7, Nabkel' system according claim 1, wherein:

said authorized security code table is adapted to includes call related information (PIN) relating to at least one subscriber [calling party] authorized to secure a voice message (column 2, lines 28-36).

4.8 Regarding claim 9, Nabkel' system according claim 1, further comprising:

a call related information detector/receiver adapted to detect and receive call related information (PIN) regarding said subscriber [calling party] (column 2, lines 28-36).

4.9 Regarding claim 10, Nabkel' system according claim 1, wherein:

said controller is adapted to compare call related information received regarding said subscriber [calling party] with at least one pre-stored authorized security code to allow said subscriber [calling party] to separately secure said voice message (column 2, lines 28-36, 58-65; column 3, lines 53-58).

4.10 Regarding claim 11, Nabkel discloses a method to secure voice message on a voice messaging system, comprising:

prompting a subscriber [calling party] to enter an authorized security code (column 2, lines 28-30);

comparing an entered authorized security code to at least on pre-stored authorized security code (column 2, lines 30-36); and

upon matching said entered authorized security code with at least one pre-stored authorized security code, securing a recorded message (column 2, lines 58-65; column 3, lines 53-58).

4.11 Regarding claim 12, Nabkel teaches a method for securing a voice message on a voice messaging system according to claim 11, where in:

said securing is performed after said message is being recorded (column 3, lines 53-58, figure 3).

4.12 Regarding claims 13 and 14, Nabkel teaches a method for securing a voice message on a voice messaging system according to claim 11, where in:

said securing is performed before and while said message is being recorded (column 2, lines 58-65).

4.13 Regarding claim 15, Nabkel teaches that a subscriber [calling party] is prompted to enter his PIN (column 2, lines 28-30), Nabkel also teaching interfacing with DTMF via a telephone (column 5, lines 61-65).

4.14 Regarding claim 16, Nabkel discloses a method and system for posting messages to callers based on caller identity in figure 6. Nabkel system comprising:

prompting a calling party [user] to enter a PIN on a voice message-by-voice message basis for secure voice messages (column 4, lines 50-52; figure 5, steps 162-170);

comparing an entered PIN [security code] to at least one pre-stored PIN; and  
upon matching said entered PIN with said at least one pre-stored PIN, allowing said calling party [user] access to an underlying secured voice message.



4.15 Regarding claim 17, Nabkel teaches entering a PIN [security code] for each secured voice message (column 4, lines 50-52; figure 5, steps 162-170).

4.16 Regarding claim 18, Nabkel discloses a system for securing a voice message on a voice messaging system, comprising:

means for prompting a subscriber [calling party] to enter an authorized PIN [security code] (column 2, lines 28-30);

means for comparing an entered authorized PIN to at least one pre-stored authorized PIN (column 2, lines 30-36); and

means for securing a recorded voice message (column 2, lines 58-65; column 3, lines 53-58), upon matching said entered authorized PIN with at least one pre-stored authorized PIN (column 2, lines 30-36).

4.17 Regarding claim 19, Nabkel's system according to claim 18, wherein:

said means for securing secures said voice message after it is being recorded (column 3, lines 53-58, figure 3).

4.18 Regarding claim s 20 and 21, Nabkel's system according to claim 18, wherein:

said means for securing secures said voice message before and while it is being recorded (column 3, lines 53-58, figure 3).

Art Unit: 2645

4.19 Regarding claim 22, Nabkel's system includes means for entering said security code from a subscriber's [calling party] telephone (column 2, lines 28-30; column 5, lines 61-65).

4.20 Regarding claim 23, Regarding claim 23, Nabkel discloses a system for posting messages to calling parties in figure 6, comprising:

means for prompting a calling party [user] to enter a PIN [security code] on voice message-by-voice message basis (column 4, lines 50-52; figure 5, steps 162-170);

means for comparing the entered PIN to at least one pre-stored PIN; and

means for allowing said calling party [user] access to an underlying secured voice message, upon matching said entered PIN with at least one pre-stored PIN (column 4, lines 41-45);

4.21 Regarding claim 24, the Nabkel system according to claim 23, further comprising:

means for entering a PIN [security code] for each secured voice message (column 4, lines 50-52; figure 5, steps 162-170).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nabkel US Patent 5,963,626 in view of Harrington et al. US Patent 5,440,616.

Nabkel teaches that a subscriber [calling party] uses a PIN to secure a voice message, and the subscriber [calling party] has the option of specifying security parameters for said voice message (column 3, lines 53-58).

Nabkel fails to teach that the voice message includes a header, and the header information includes the security parameters.

However, Harrington teaches that message headers information includes the identification of the calling party and time of the call, and so forth (column 5, lines 32-38).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Nabkel reference with the teaching of Harrington so that the header information of a voice message would have included security status, because such a modification would have enabled the subscriber [calling party] to secure a voice message for access only by other authorized users.

### ***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Simon Sing whose telephone number is (703) 305-3221. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

Art Unit: 2645

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang, can be reached on (703) 305-4895. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.

S.S.

05/31/2002

FAN TSANG  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

